THE NEWS OF

HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Thirty years ago on October 30, 1989, Magyar Posta issued this stamp to commemorate the dismantling of the electrified fence along the western border with Austria.

Society for Hungarian Philately

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Established 1969

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American Philatelic Society Affiliate #34

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The Society for Hungarian Philately(SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address or to the Editor's e-mail address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights are reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted only with the written permission of the Editor and the authors. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for $4.00, if available, plus postage.

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This issue closed on 1 November 2019. The next issue will close on 1 February 2020.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by **Alan Bauer**

Hello everyone, this quarter I would like to share with you an experience I had in November up here in rural Vermont in the small town of Vergennes. It's probably the last place in the world that you would expect to find a very unique Hungarian stamp collection, going back to the pre-stamp covers of the 1820s, but I did and here is the story.

I was called by Steve Dunn, the son of James Dunn, who was one of our earliest members, joining back in 1971. Steve's father had recently passed away and he called me to help him sell his Dad's stamp collection. Little did I know what I was getting into. Jim was a pack rat and had two upstairs rooms in his rural farm dedicated to his stamp collection. Unfortunately like all pack rats, there was a lot of stuff all over the place. Fortunately, the core albums were meticulously kept in binders. Jim was an active exhibitor in the '70s and '80s and he won numerous awards for his early Austria-Hungary postal history, cancellations and Western Hungary collections. He had some marvelous air-mail studies from the early airmails to the Zeppelins. There were dozens of beautiful albums from the 1820s to the 1930s, all meticulously documented. These were primarily focused on postal history, back-of-book issues and included 6 volumes of Revenue issues, including one dedicated to Fiume revenues.

And then, there was the rest of it. He had every SHP Journal boxed from the 1970's up to the last ones we sent him, even after he had passed away in early-2019. He had all 10 monographs, copies of articles, Hungarian catalogs from the 1940s to the 1980s and philatelic literature squirrelled away all over the place. Then I found letters and documents from many of our early members, Les Ettre, Otto Schaffling, Paul Szilágyi, John Stansfield and many others, including many from Hungary. I took a bunch of them back with me to read and said I'd be back in January to pick up the rest. I'm not sure if any of our senior members remember Jim, but if so, I would love to hear from you. It is a treasure trove of information dating back to the beginning days of our Society. Needless to say, I had an amazing time sorting through Jim's legacy.

This brings me to our meeting and anniversary celebration in Hartford. I'll bring a lot of the literature and the more interesting letters with me to our booth and I look forward to sharing them with our members who join us there. Please remember to mark your calendars for our meeting and celebration at the APS Stampshow in Hartford, Connecticut next summer. The dates are August 20 – 23, 2020 and the location is the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford. Please also get your applications in to exhibit and if you need any help with arrangements, let me know. If you'd like to volunteer to help in the coordination activities, please let me know**. I look forward to seeing you there!!!**

Thanks for your input and as always, ……..Happy stamping!

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WELCOME & KUDOS

A warm welcome to our newest member, Dr. William Grim of Columbus, Ohio!

Congratulations to Fumihisa Ito, one of our members from Japan! His exhibit "Hungary Inflation, 1920-1926" scored 88 points to win a Gold Medal at JAPEX 2019 - the 54th Japan Philatelic Exhibition in Tokyo. His exhibit also received the JAPEX Executive Committee Award. Well done Mr. Ito!

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THE WEBMASTER'S REPORT

by **Wally Green**

Introduction

It has been a somewhat eventful 3 months as far as the website is concerned. I was adding the auction lots for the November auctions when we ran out of file space on our server. Well after about a week of terror, we added space and were able to display the entire auction. Other than that, it has been pretty quiet.

We're still trying to find a replacement for me as Webmaster. Would you, or someone you know, be willing to take on this job? The duties are not very onerous, but do require some relatively minor computer skills. Please send me an e-mail if you have any interest. I am more than willing to help walk you through the tasks I perform.

Website Usage

Our statistics show we had about 23% less "hits" on the Website in the last 90 days compared to the previous 90-day period. However, each "hit" lasted about 34% longer, so net usage is about the same.

Thank you for your support.

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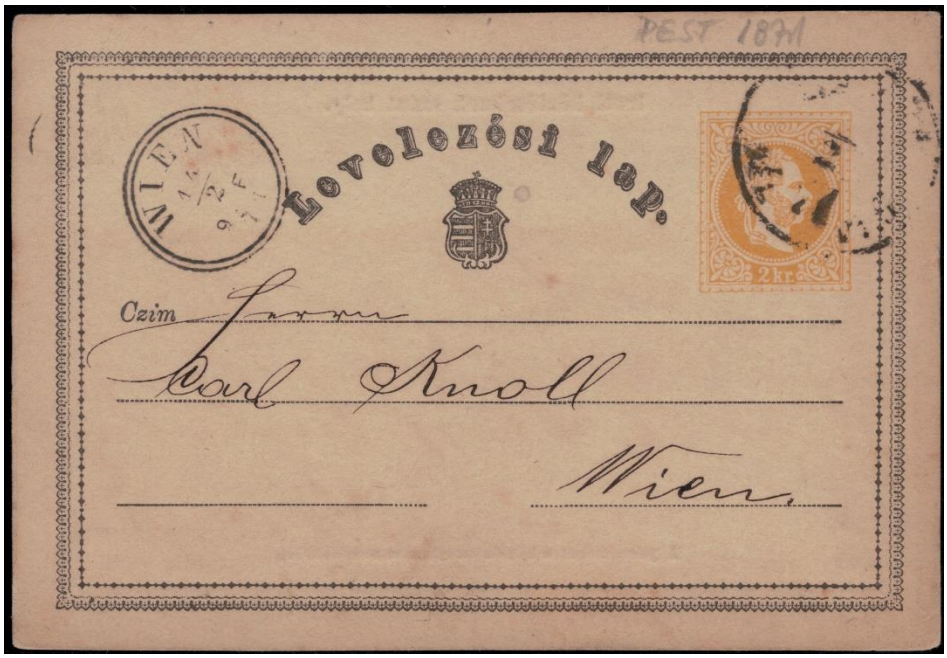
THE RUMINATIONS OF YOUR EDITOR

by **Robert Lauer**

The last quarter of 2019 marks a number of fairly significant historic and philatelic anniversaries, aside from the one noted on the front cover of this edition of **The News.** It marks the 150th anniversary of the simultaneous issue of the world's first postal stationery cards by the Austrian and Hungarian postal authorities on October 1, 1869. Both Austria and Hungary used the design from the 1867 issue as the indicium. In Hungary, there were two linguistic versions of the cards issued, one in German and the other in Hungarian. These are illustrated below.

German language version of the first Hungarian postal stationery card.



Hungarian language version of the first Hungarian postal stationery card.

The Universal Postal Union was founded 145 years ago on October 9, 1874 in Bern, Switzerland and Hungary issued the first of its "Envelope" series stamps on October 1, 1874. Hungary issued the first two denominations (the 5f and 10f) of its first issue of War Charity Stamps to aid the country's war widows and orphans on October 7, 1914, after the disasterous battles against the Russians in Galicia in the summer of 1914. November 16th marks the centenary of the entry of Horthy's Hungarian National Army into Budapest, after the withdrawal of the Romanian occupation forces from the city. This event was commemorated at the time by the overprinting of five values of Harvester stamps, which will be illustrated later in this issue.

However, the focus of this issue of **The News** is the various stamps issued by the French, Serbian and Romanian armies that occupied large parts of the Kingdom of Hungary immediately following the end of World War I. These are the stamps listed under "Occupation Stamps" at the end of the Hungary section of the Scott catalogue and they were issued between May 1919 and January 1920, roughly a century ago. In my never very humble opinion, collecting these issues is the most complicated aspect of Hungarian philately, as all of these stamps have been forged, with some so extensively that fakes represent the vast majority of what a collector will encounter on the market. Most dealers, and, for that matter, most collectors, have no idea how to distinguish genuine material from the omni-present forgeries. I remember going through one dealer's inventory a number of years ago and out of 50 items only one was genuine, and unfortunately I already had a nice copy of that stamp.

Having this edition of **The News** focus on the Occupation Issues on the centenary of many of these issues was the idea of Chris Brainard, who is one of our Directors and one of the world's foremost authorities on these stamps. Chris is also the author and publisher of what is probably the best single source of information in English on these issues, his "Catalog of Hungarian Occupation Issues, 1918-1921: Overprints and Stamps of Original Design" (Cherry Hill, NJ, 2006). Chris has

recently had another batch of these books printed, so they are again available from the author. Contact him at christopherbrainard5@gmail.com to purchase a copy. Another of our members, Clark Souers, has put together a website www.postww1stampforgeries.org where he applies the various tests for genuineness set out in Brainard's work and other sources (mostly from articles published in **The News**) for the Arad, Bánát Bácska, Szeged and Debrecen issues to a number of the actual stamps. Clark has done an awesome job on this website; each page is nicely laid out, the images are in colour and the approach is very helpful indeed. He has also put together a paper-back book *Forgeries of Common Stamps after World War I* (Version 2) and is working on a new book which deals solely with forgeries of the Hungarian occupation issues. He is planning to make this book available to our members through the SHP. There is also a great series of articles in the *Stamps of Hungary*, the quarterly publication of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, our sister society in the U.K., entitled "On the trail of the 1919 overprints" which appears periodically from June 2004 to September 2017. These articles deal with the Arad, Szeged, Second Debrecen, Fiume and S.H.S issues, various local issues and the overprinting of Hungarian postal stationery by Fiume, Romania and the S.H.S Kingdom.

In thinking about the content for an edition of **The News** devoted to the occupation issues after the First World War, I came to the conclusion that what might be most helpful to the membership would be to focus on the information that is not contained in these various sources and thus create kind of a companion resource to complement the works above.

The first article in this issue is a piece by Csaba Kohalmi (the 'Sage of Indianapolis' and my predecessor as Editor of this august publication) and me in which we attempt to put the main occupation era stamp issues into the geographic and historical context of the time, a task much simpler said than done. Following that, I am republishing the chronology of all of the occupation issues, including local ones, that Csaba put together and which originally appeared in the July-September 2002 issue of **The News**. Together, these two articles should give readers a sense of what fits where and when with respect to this material.

The remaining article in this issue is on the three series of stamps issued under the Serbian and subsequent Romanian occupation of Temesvár. I have never seen any guide to distinguishing genuine from counterfeit for these issues published in English, other than Csaba's response to one of my questions back in the January-March 2012 issue of **The News** and my translation of the section on these issues from the 2009 Edition of the *Magyar posta-és illetékbélyeg katalógus* (pg.407) in the April-June 2012 issue of **The News**. So, in this article I have pulled together everything I know about these three issues, including what I have learned from my communications with Csaba and Chris, into a single place. Hopefully readers will find this useful.

My apologies to those of you who have submitted articles to me for publication, and not yet seen them in print; Csaba and I have hogged the entire issue, but hopefully to good effect. We will return to our regular scheduled programming with the next edition of **The News.**

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

After a fascinating month of travel through Iran, I was rather proud to see **The News** with my Tanács article upon my return. I am sending you a scan of a letter to the 'Gas factory of the Soviet Republic' which is a sibling of the letter from Paul's collection shown on the back of that issue!

Johan Sevenhuijsen

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HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION ISSUES: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

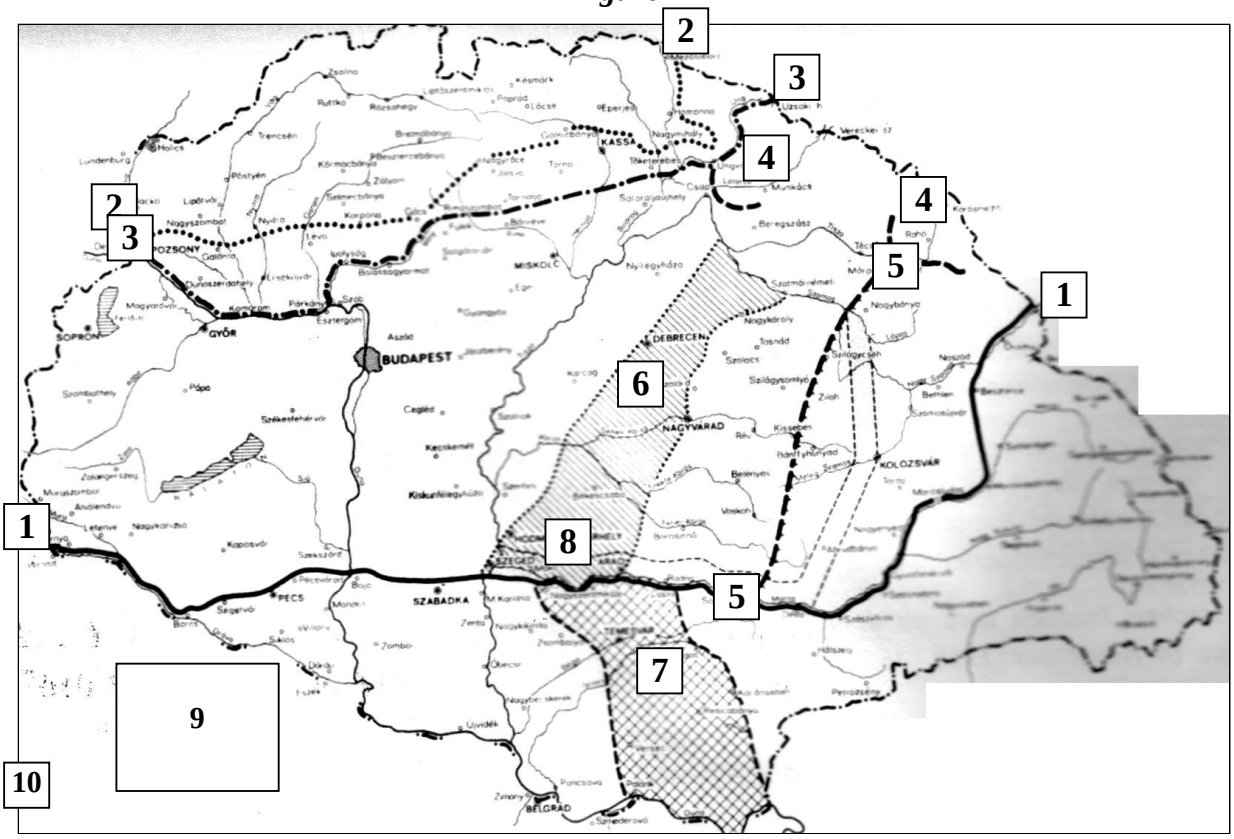
by **Csaba L. Kohalmi** *and* **Robert Lauer**

In the following article we will attempt to put the various stamp issues listed under the "Occupation Stamps section at the end of Hungary in the Scott Catalogue into the historical context of political/military situation at the end of the First World War. A more detailed elaboration of the political and diplomatic events themselves can be found in an article by Robert Lauer, "Historical Context: Military Campaigns and Political Developments in the Kingdom of Hungary, 1918-1919" in the April-June 2017 issue of **The News** [Volume 48, No. 2]. The political maps from this era were 'moving maps,' so we will use three maps in an attempt to illustrate how the military

demarcation lines drawn as a result of Hungary's surrender at the end of World War I evolved into zones of occupation by the armed forces of the successor states, and, eventually, resulted in these occupation stamp issues of 100 years ago.

The maps in Figures 1 and 9 illustrate various aspects of the situation on the ground as it evolved from November 1918 through July 1919. The map in Figure 15 looks at developments in the occupied rump of Hungary into 1921. The map in Figure 1 below was originally published on page 41 of Anikó Kovács-Bertrand's book *Der ungarische Revisionismus nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg* (München, 1997). It was reproduced by Helmut Kobelbauer for his article "Zensur in und um Ungarn nach Ende des Ersten Weltkrieges" published in the *ARGE Ungarn Jahrbuch 2014*.

Figure 1



1 ——— 1 The military demarcation line per the 13 November 1918 Belgrade Military Convention armistice agreement between the Hungarian government and the Entente / SHS / Romanian military forces; the Hungarians were forced to withdraw behind this line.

2 ····· 2 The temporary demarcation line between Czechoslovak and Hungarian forces per the agreement between Hungarian Minister of Defense Bartha and Czechoslovak representative Hodža on 6 December 1918.

3 -•-•-•- **3** The revised demarcation line between Czechoslovak and Hungarian forces ordered by the Entente on 23 December 1918. The events behind the drawing of these two demarcation lines between Hungarian and Czechoslovak forces are set out at the beginning of an article by Robert Lauer and Johan Sevenhuijsen, "The Usage of Hungarian Stamps and Postal Stationery in Post-Independence Czechoslovakia" in the January-March 2016 issue of **The News** [Volume 47, No. 1].

4 The approximate area temporarily attached to the Western Ukrainian Republic in mid-January 1919.

5 ——— **5** The limit of the Romanian advance between 20 January 1919 and 16 April 1919.

6 The new demilitarized zone specified by the so-called Vix Memorandum of 20 March 1919 generated by French Lieutenant-Colonel Vix, head of the Entente Military Commission in Budapest. The Hungarian military was supposed to withdraw behind this line, but the Romanians were not to advance up to it. The loss of control over this additional territory prompted the resignation of the Károlyi government's Prime Minister and the communist coup that lead to the establishment of Béla Kun's Soviet Republic.

7 The demilitarized zone established by the Entente to separate the armies of the SHS Kingdom and Romania. This area was initially occupied by Serbian forces, under which the first series of Temesvár occupation stamps (Scott #9N1and 9NB1) was issued in May 1919 and a second series (Scott #9N2-9N4, and #9NJ1-9NJ3) issued on 1 July 1919. A selection of stamps from these two issues is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2: *Temesvár – Serbian Occupation Issues*

Figure 3: *Bánát Bácska Issue*

Serbian forces withdrew from this area by 27 July 1919, leaving the area unoccupied. During this interregnum, the local Temesvár postal authorities issued a series of stamps overprinted "Bánát, Bácska 1919" (Scott #10N1-10NP1) on the 27/28 July 1919 (Figure 3). While these stamps were valid for postage, they were primarily used to pay the salaries of local postal employees.

At the beginning of August 1919, this area was then occupied by Romanian forces. A third set of Temesvár occupation stamps was issued in mid-August 1919 (Scott #4N1-4NJ3). Some of these stamps are shown in Figure 4. All of these four stamp issues were valid for postage until 15 March 1920.

Under the Treaty of Trianon, which was signed on 4 June 1920, Temesvár and the eastern part of the Bánát went to Romania; the western part of the Bánát went to the S.H.S. Kingdom.

Figure 4: *Temesvar – Romanian Occupation Issue*

8 An area around the towns of Arad and Szeged was occupied by troops under the command of French General Phillipe Berthelot on 31 December 1918. In early May 1919, the French occupation forces in Arad issued a series of Hungarian stamps overprinted "Occupation française" (Scott #1N1-1NP1) illustrated in Figure 5. The French authorities also allowed the Hungarian National Government, the anti-Communist Nationalist alternative government set up by the "Whites" to issue a series of Hungarian stamps overprinted "MAGYAR NEMZETI KORMÁNY Szeged, 1919" (Hungarian National Government) on 28 June 1919 (Scott #11N1-11NP1), shown in Figure 6. While this issue is not, strictly speaking, an 'occupation' issue, it is an 'occupation-era' overprint and usually included in this category.

Under the Treaty of Trianon, Arad became part of Romania, while Szeged remained in Hungary.

Figure 5: *Arad – French Occupation Issue*

Figure 6: *Szeged – National Government Issue*

9 The Croatian Sabor declared its independence from the Kingdom of Hungary on 29 October 1918 and joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS) on 4 December 1918. The first stamps issued for Croatian-Slavonia in November 1918 were Hungarian stamps overprinted "S H S HRVATSKA" (Scott Yugoslavia 2L1-2L27 and 2LB1-2LP2) as in Figure 7.

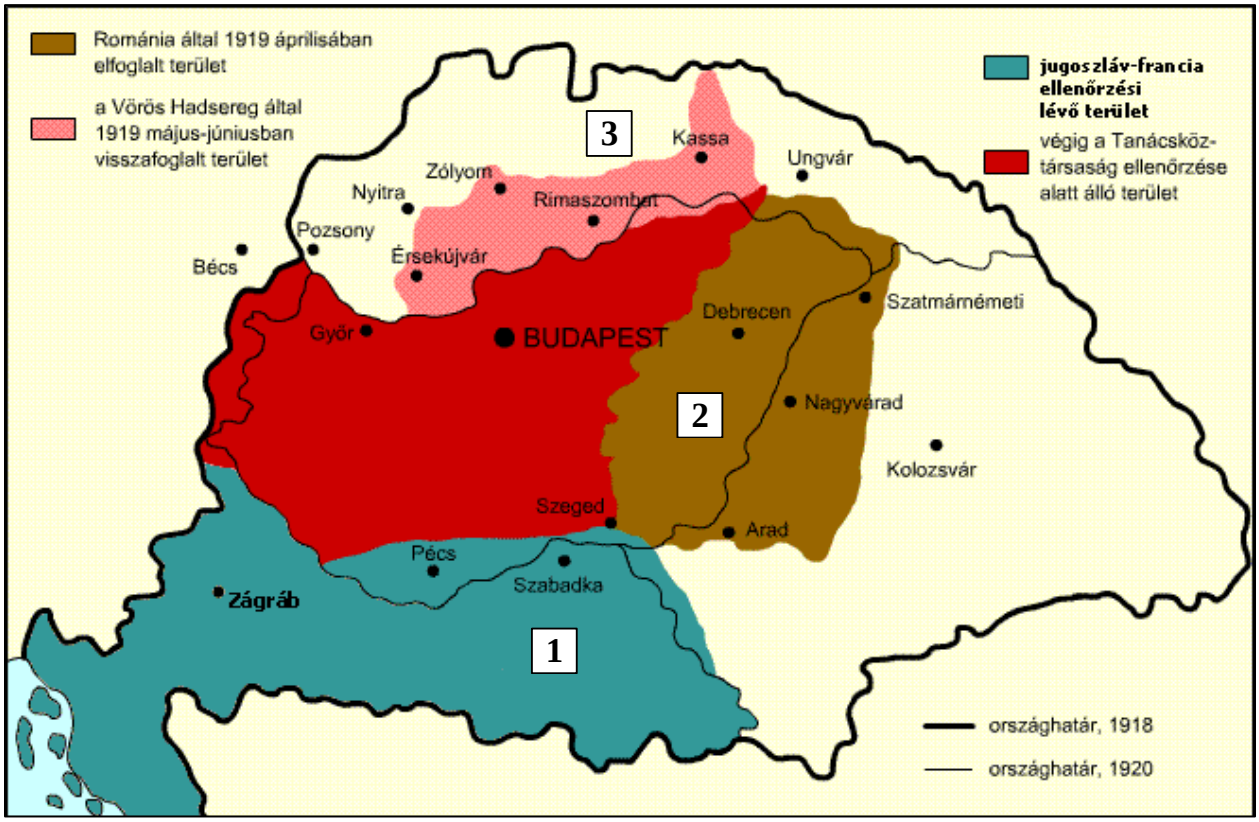
Figure 7: *SHS Issue for Croatia-Slavonia*

10 Fiume was initially claimed by the new SHS Kingdom, but was occupied in November 1918 by an international force of Italian, French, Serbian, British and American troops. The first issue of postage stamps for Fiume by the Entente occupation forces were Hungarian stamps overprinted "FIUME" (Scott Fiume 1-26, B1-3, J1-12). These stamps were issued in November 1918 and some are illustrated in Figure 8. On 12 September 1919, a force of Italian nationalist irregulars, led by the poet Gabriele d'Annunzio seized control of the city by force and established a city-state. Fiume became part of Italy by the terms of the January 1924 Treaty of Rome between Italy and the S.H.S. Kingdom.

Figure 8: *first issue of stamps for Fiume*

The map in Figure 9 focuses on the period of Hungarian Soviet Republic (*Magyar tanácsköztársaság)* from April through July 1919.

Figure 9



1 The area in blue was occupied by the forces of the new S.H.S. Kingdom and comprised Croatia, the area south of Szabadka and part of Baranya around the town of Pécs. The S.H.S. forces occupying Pécs issued two series of Hungarian stamps overprinted for use in this area: the First Baranya issue overprinted with "Baranya" and "1919" (Scott #7N1-7NJ4) on 5 May

1919, as in Figure 10 and the Second Baranya issue overprinted with "Baranya" in a different font in December 1919 (Scott #8N1-8NP1) as in Figure 11. Hungarian stamps were also overprinted for the plethora of local issues such as those for Muraszerdahely, Pártosfalva, Ada, Zombor, Csáktornya, Bácsszenttamás, Homokbálványos, Fehértemplom, Belatinc, Pancsova, Lendvavásárhely, and Perlak.

Figure 10: *First Baranya Issue*

Figure 11: *Second Baranya Issue*

2 The area in brown was occupied by Romanian forces over the course of April 1919 in their offensive against the Hungarian Red Army that took them to the east bank of the Tisza River. The occupying Romanian forces issued two series of overprinted Hungarian stamps: the "First Transylvania Issue" in Kolozsvár on 3 August 1919 (Scott #5N1-5NP1) and the "Second Transylvania Issue" in Nagyvárad (which is actually in the Partium, rather than in Transylvania proper) on 25 October 1919 (Scott #6N1-6NP1). While both of these series of stamps were issued in occupied Hungary, they were valid for postage anywhere within Romanian occupied Hungary and the Kingdom of Romania itself until 1 January 1922. In addition, local issues overprinting Hungarian stamps were also prepared in Nagyszeben and Borosjenő.

On 1 December 1918, the National Assembly of Romanians of Transylvania and Hungary met in Gyulafehérvár (now Alba Iulia) to proclaim the union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania. Under the Treaty of Trianon, Transylvania, as well as Nagyvárad (now Oradea) and most of the Partium became part of the Kingdom of Romania.

Figure 12: *Kolozsvár Issue*

Figure 13: *Nagyvárad Issue*

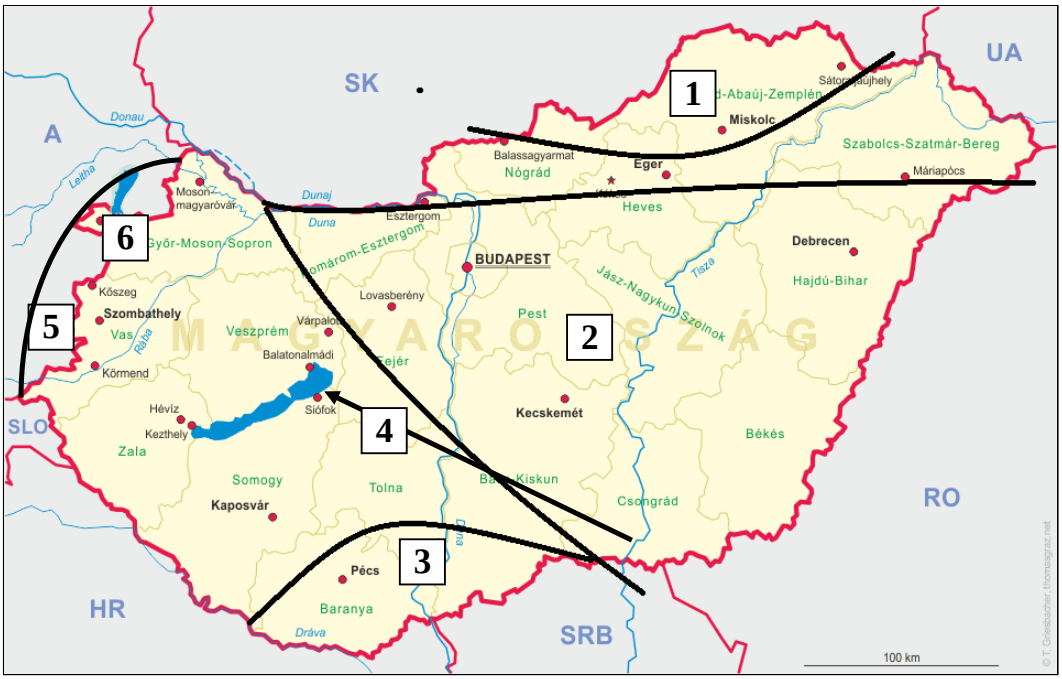
3 As a result of the revised demarcation line ordered by the Entente on 23 December 1919, which is detailed on the map in Figure 1, Upper Hungary and the Carpatho-Ukraine were occupied by Czechoslovak forces. The light red area illustrates the area of Slovakia that was regained by the Hungarian Red Army in the "Northern Offensive" against the Czechoslovak forces during late-May and June 1919. The occupying Hungarian Red Army set up a Slovak Soviet Republic, which collapsed in early July 1919 when the Hungarian Red Army withdrew under an armistice with Czechoslovakia arranged by the Entente. In December 1919, the Czechoslovak

postal authorities issued a series of domestic stamps using the Austrian and Hungarian stamps on hand overprinted "Pošta Československá 1919" (Scott Czechoslovakia #B64-123) as illustrated in Figure 14. Various private, local overprints were also prepared in Szakolca, Vienna and Budapest, as well as the so-called Srobár issue.

Figure 14: *"Pošta Československá 1919" Issue*

The focus of the map in Figure 15 is the events in the rump of the Kingdom of Hungary inside the borders that were established as a result of the Treaty Trianon during the period of April 1919 through December 1921.

Figure 15



1 The approximate advance of the Czechoslovak Legion into northern Hungary during the period April-May 1919, before the Northern Offensive of the Hungarian Red Army into Slovakia of late-May-June 1919. The philatelic aspects of this brief Czechoslovak occupation of part of northern Hungary are elaborated in Johan Sevenhuijsen's article "Czechs in Hungary in 1919" in the April-June 2016 issue of **The News** (Vol. 47, No.2).

2 The approximate area of the Romanian occupation of Hungary after the collapse of the Hungarian Soviet Republic. The Romanian occupation authorities in Debrecen issued two series of stamps: the "First Debrecen Issue" of 20 November 1919, composed of overprinted Hungarian stamps (Scott #2N1-2NP1) and the "Second Debrecen Issue" on 2 January 1920 composed of stamps of original design (Scott #3N1-3NJ5). The First and Second Debrecen Issues are illustrated in Figures 16 and 17 respectively. These stamps remained valid for postage in this area until 20 March 1920. The Romanian occupation forces withdrew from eastern Hungary over the course of March 1920. The Romanian occupation of Budapest also resulted in a number of privately produced overprinted stamps.

Figure 16: *First Debrecen Issue*

Figure 17: *Second Debrecen Issue*

3 The approximate area of the Serbian occupation of Baranya, which lasted until 20 August 1920, even though the Treaty of Trianon, under which Pécs and most of Baranya remained part of Hungary, had been signed on 4 June 1920 and ratified by the Hungarian Parliament on 13 November 1920. The Serbs even established a short-lived Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja (see Figure 18 below), which lasted from 14 August 1921 to 20 August 1921, in a last ditch effort to perpetuate their control of this area of Hungary (see the article on the Serbian-Hungarian Republic of Baranya-Baja by Csaba L. Kohalmi in the July-September 2011 issue of **The News**, Vol. 42, No. 3). The First and Second Baranya Issues were valid for postage in this area until August 21, 1920.

Figure 18: *Map of the short-lived Baranya-Baja Serb-Hungarian Republic (14-20 August 1921)*

4 The Hungarian National Army moved from Szeged to Siófok on 9 August 1919. The entry of the National Army into Budapest following the Romanian evacuation on 16 November 1919 was commemorated with a set of 5 Harvester stamps overprinted with "A nemzeti hadsereg bevonulása 1919. XI / 16." (Scott #306-310) which are illustrated in Figure 19.

Figure 19: *Issue commemorating the entry of the National Army into Budapest*

5 Western Hungary / Burgenland ceded to Austria. The Trianon Treaty stipulated that the turn-over of this area to Austria was to be delayed for one year. Prior to this, in August of 1921, Hungarian insurgents took control of this part of Hungary and declared the independent Banate of Lajtabánság. Many overprinted Hungarian stamps as well as stamps of original design were issued to raise funds for the insurgency.

6 Plebiscite in Sopron. The Entente agreed to hold a plebiscite for the Sopron-area which voted to remain in Hungary.

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A CHRONOLOGY OF HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION ISSUES

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

The table below listing the chronology of 'occupation' issues was originally published by me in the July-September 2002 issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately**.

The Hungarian stamps overprinted *KÖZTÁRSASÁG* were issued 23 November 1918 and were distributed to all of the postal directorate districts in the old kingdom with the exception of Zagreb (and Fiume, but I'm not sure to which directorate the city belonged). Subsequently, the stamps inscribed *MAGYAR POSTA* (issued starting in January 1919) received similar distribution. By the time the *MAGYAR TANÁCSKÖZTÁRSASÁG* overprint appeared (issued 21 July 1919) the occupation by the armies of the successor states was in full force, and these stamps saw distribution only in the districts under the authority of the Budapest government.

Issue Authority	Locality	Issue Date	Category	[1]
4 October 1918: Austria-Hungary asks for an armistice from the Entente.				
16 October 1918: Emperor/King Karl/Károly issues the 'People's Manifesto' to develop a federation of independent nation-states within the Monarchy.				
18 October 1918: Croatia-Slavonia along with Slovenia elects to secede from the Monarchy.				
23 October 1918: Fiume garrison mutinies and declares the city a part of Croatia				
3 November 1918: Austro-Hungarian Monarchy signs armistice agreement in Padua				
9 November 1918: The Romanian National Council of Transylvania meets in Arad				
12 November 1918: The Republic of German-Austria declared				
13 November 1918: The Károlyi-government signs the Armistice of Belgrade				

15 November 1918: The Romanian army occupies the Maros River line in Transylvania and Serb troops occupy Pécs & Baranya County.				
National Council of Czechoslovakia	Szakolca/Skalica 'Cesko-slovenská Státni Posta' overprint prepared in Prague	15 Nov. 1918	Local	CS
16 November 1918: Republic is declared in Hungary				
17 November 1918: Croatians abandon Fiume, Italian navy sails into the city.				
18 November 1918: Serbian military completes the occupation of Croatia south of the Dráva River and seizes the Town of Pécs and the Baranya triangle.				
Croatian National Council	Croatia-Slavonia SHS overprint	18 Nov. 1918	Successor State	YU
Rev. P. Jehlicska	Budapest ovpt. 'Slovenska Posta'	November 1918	Local	CS
Military Control Commission	Fiume overprint on Hungarian stamps	2 Dec. 1918	Occupation / transition to Successor State	F
1 December 1918: The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (SHS) is formed				
1 December 1918: The meeting in Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia declares the union of Transylvania with the Kingdom of Romania.				
Private / Speculative issue	Vienna overprint 'Respublica Cesko-Slovenska'	1919	Local	CS
Dr. Vavro Srobár, minister of the Slovak Nat'l Council	Srobár-issue used around Csorba-tó/Strbské Pleso, prepared in Prague	January 1919	Local	CS
Military Control Commission	Fiume stamps of original design	January 1919	Successor State	F
Ensign Gobcevic, Serb Military	Muraszerdahely	3 Jan. 1919	Local	YU
Count Matzenau / speculative	Pártosfalva	January 1919	Local	YU
Serbian Military	Zombor	8 Feb. 1919	Local	YU
Serbian Military	Ada	15 Feb 1919	Local	YU
Rezsö Valic / speculative	Csáktornya	24 Feb. 1919	Local	YU
Romanian Military Government	Nagyszeben/South western Transylvania	15 March 1919	Local	RO
Jean Oddor, Bucharest dealer	Borosjenö	1919	Local	RO

21 March 1919: The fall of the Károlyi-government, the establishment of the Soviet Republic under Béla Kún.				
23 April 1919: Debrecen occupied by Romanian troops.				
1 May 1919: The trans-Tisza territory occupied by Romanian troops.				
20 May 1919: Hungarian Red Army attacks the Czechoslovak forces in Miskolc and pursues them into northern Hungary				
16 June 1919: Slovak Soviet Republic is established in Prešov. It lasted until 7 July 1919.				
23 June 1919: Hungary signs an armistice with the Czech forces and the Red Army retreats behind the demarcation line				
French Military	Arad	5 May 1919	Occupation	RO
Serbian Military, Officially sanctioned by Budapest authority	Baranya I.	5 May 1919	Occupation	HU
Serbian Military	Temesvár I.	15 May 1919	Occupation	RO
Lajos Varjassy, Minister of Commerce, with the permission of the French Military	Szeged	26 June 1919	Occupation	HU
Serbian Military	Temesvár II	1 July 1919	Occupation	RO
Serbian Military	Bácsszenttamás	25 July 1919	Local	YU
Local Hungarian Postal Authority	Bánát-Bácska	27 July 1919	Local	RO
21-31 July 1919: Temesvár/Bánát-Bácska 'independent' between Serbian evacuation and Romanian occupation.				
31 July 1919: Romanians cross the Tisza River and defeat the Hungarian Red Army				
1 August 1919: The collapse of the Hungarian Soviet Republic.				
3 August 1919: Budapest occupied by Romanian troops.				
Local postmaster with permission from Temesvár	Homokbálványos/ Porto provisional postage due overprints	August 1919 thru Jan. 1920	Local	YU
Local postmaster	Fehértemplom/Franco provisional overprint on postage due stamps	August (?) 1919	Local	YU

Lt. Svetec, Serbian Military	Belantinc	August 1919	Local	YU
Romanian Postal Authority	Kolozsvár	3 August 1919	Occupation / transition to Successor State	RO
Serbian Military	Pancsova	5 August 1919	Local	YU
Romanian Army	Temesvár III.	17 August 1919	Occupation	RO
Serbian Military	Lendvavásárhely	22 Aug. 1919	Local	YU
12 September 1919: D'Annunzio's legionnaires occupy Fiume				
Romanian Military	Budapest	October 1919	Local	HU
Romanian Postal Authority	Nagyvárad	26 October 1919	Occupation / transition to Successor State	RO
Private / speculative issue	Baranya III ('VI' ovprt)	October 1919	Local	HU
13 November 1919: Romanian military evacuates Budapest.				
16 November 1919: The Hungarian National Army commanded by Admiral Miklós Horthy enters Budapest.				
Romanian Military	Debrecen I.	20 Nov. 1919	Occupation	HU
Czechoslovak Postal Authority	Posta Ceskoslovenska	12 Dec. 1919	Successor State	CS
Serb Military	Baranya II.	15 Dec. 1919	Occupation / Officially sanctioned by Budapest authorities	HU
Serb Military	Perlak	22 Dec. 1919	Local	YU
Romanian Military	Debrecen II.	23 Dec. 1919	Occupation	HU
Romanian Major Boboiceanu	Debrecen / Boboiceanu issue	March 1920	Local	HU
Local Postmaster	Villány Provisional	1920	Local	HU
Entente Plebiscite Commission	Eastern Silezia S.O. overprints on Czechoslovak stamps	mid-Feb. 1920	Local / plebiscite regions of Teschen & Arva County	CS & P
1 March 1920: Admiral Miklós Horthy elected Regent of the Kingdom of Hungary.				
20 March 1920: Romanian military occupation of Debrecen ends.				
4 June 1920: Signing of the Treaty of Trianon.				
13 November 1920: Treaty of Trianon ratified by the Hungarian Parliament				
26 March-4 April 1921: King Károly's first attempt to reclaim the Hungarian throne				
14 August 1921: The Hungarian-Serb Republic of Baranya-Baja declared				

20 August 1921: Serbian military occupation of Baranya ends.				
August 1921: Insurgents lead by Pál Prónay infiltrate Western Hungary and establish independent Lajtabánság on 4 October 1921.				
Insurgent Army of Western Hungary	Lajtabánság	Several series starting on 4 Sep. through 21 Dec. 1921	Local	AU & H (town of Sopron)
11 October 1921: Meeting of foreign ministers in Venice resolves the future of Laj-tabánság and authorizes the Sopron plebiscite.				
20-31 October 1921: King Károly's second attempt to regain the Hungarian throne.				
14 December 1921: Sopron plebiscite, the city votes to stay with Hungary.				
Private / speculative issue	Jennersdoft issue prepared in Graz, Austria /Austrian Eagle ovpt. on Hungarian stamps/	1921	Local	AU
Private/ speculative issues	*Burgenlands Befrieung* and *Burgen/land* ovpt. on Austrian stamps	1921	Local	AU
22 February 1924: Fiume annexed by Italy.				

Footnote:

[1] The letters in this column indicate the country that the particular stamp issuing region belonged to following the 1919-1920 peace treaties. AU=Austria; CS=Czechoslovakia; RO=Romania; YU=Jugoslavia; F=Fiume; HU=Hungary; P=Poland

A correctly franked registered letter from Fiume to Zagreb in the S.H.S. Kingdom cancelled February 10, 1919 using one of the overprinted and surcharged Hungarian stamps from the first issue for Fiume *(from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi)*.

THE TEMESVÁR ISSUES UNDER SERBIAN AND ROMANIAN OCCUPATION

by **Robert Lauer**

Figure 1: *the four counties of the Temesvár Postal Directorate in 1918.*

Temesvár and the surrounding Bánát region of Hungary was the only area of the country to be occupied by both Serbian and Romanian forces in succession and, as such, is almost a microcosm of the occupations of the Kingdom of Hungary at the end of the First World War. The result is an extremely interesting philatelic legacy. The Temesvár Postal Directorate was made up of four counties: Bács-Bodrog, Krassó-Szörény, Temes and Torontál, as illustrated in the map in Figure 1.

The Serbian army, soon to be the military arm of the new S.H.S. Kingdom occupied Temesvár and the surrounding area by November 25, 1918, shortly after the signing of the Belgrade Military Convention with the Entente on November 13, 1918. The armistice line is denoted by the dotted line on the map in Figure 1. (See above and my article in the April-June 2017 issue of **The News,** "Historical Context: Military Campaigns and Political Developments in the Kingdom of Hungary, 1918-19".) The Serbian forces occupied the area until their withdrawal on July 27, 1919. During this period, the Temesvár Postal Directorate issued two series of stamps, the first in May 1919 and the second on July 1, 1919. After the Serbian withdrawal, there was a short interregnum during which the "Bánát Bácska 1919" overprints were issued. The Romanian forces occupied Temesvár on August 3, 1919 and the rest of the area by August 20, 1919. The Directorate issued another series of stamps for the area later on in the month of August 1919. Under the Treaty of Trianon, Temesvár (renamed Timişoara) and the eastern part of the Bánát went to Romania, with the western portion going to the S.H.S. Kingdom. The final international frontiers in the area are illustrated by the shaded line on the map in Figure 1.

All three of these issues were valid for postage until March 15, 1920. None of the stamps from these three issues are particularly expensive; the catalogue value of a complete set of the three issues is less than $50 in Chris Brainard's *Catalog of Hungarian Occupation Issues 1918-1921.* As with all of the sections on the occupation issues the Scott catalogue contains warning with respect to forgeries. Here it notes that "[f]orgeries exist of the inverted and color error surcharges" for the Temesvár stamps issued under both Serbian and Romanian occupation. When I queried Csaba about this, his response in the January-March 2012 issue of **The News** was that "all values were counterfeited, not just the errors". However, unlike many of the occupation issues that received the attention of Mr. Pape and his associates, the genuine copies of these issues on the market may, in fact, outnumber the forgeries, with the possible exception of the postage due stamps of these issues.

Temesvár I – May 1919 (Serbian Occupation)

Figure 2: *the first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.*

The first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation consisted of two stamps: the 2f Harvester from the 1916 issue surcharged "10 fillér" and the 10f+2f stamp from the 1916 War Charity issue surcharged "45 fillér". Both of these stamps are illustrated in Figure 2 at left.

The 10 fillér stamp, which corresponded to the then current Hungarian postcard rate was issued on May 15, 1919. The 45 fillér stamp, which corresponded to the cost of a registered inland letter in Hungary, was issued later in the month; both Stanley Gibbons and the *Magyar posta-és illetékbélyeg katalógus* (MBK) suggest that this date was May 25, 1919. The Belgrade Military Convention stipulated that the Serbian occupation forces would not interfere with Hungary's public administration in the occupied areas and, as a result, Hungarian postal tariffs remained in effect.

A million copies of the 10 fillér and 500,000 of the 45 fillér were printed, making these stamps the most common of all of the Temesvár occupation issues. The 10 fillér surcharge also exists in black through an error on the part of the printer; only 20,000 were printed in black, making them relatively scarce.

These stamps were issued and used on regular mail only in Bács-Bodrog, Krassó-Szörény, Temes and Torontál counties, the four counties that made up the Temesvár Postal Directorate. Covers and cards franked with these stamps are very rare. MBK suggests that used stamps should have a catalogue value of at least double that of mint copies, something which is not reflected in any of the Scott, Stanley Gibbons or Michel catalogues. Both of these stamps were further overprinted "Bánát Bácska 1919" for the issue of stamps during the interregnum between the withdrawal of Serbian forces and the subsequent Romanian occupation of the area.

MBK indicates that two different fonts were used for the "10" in the "10 fillér" surcharge, a large font and a small font, with the large numerals having a value of twice that of the small numerals. These two fonts are illustrated in Figure 3 at right. The small "1" has quite pronounced serifs, with "feet" on each side of the base of the numeral. The serifs on the large "1" are much less pronounced.

Figure 3: *the two fonts of the 10 fillér overprint – large numerals on the left, small numerals on the right.*

From the comment in MBK on the difference in the value of the large numerals vs the small numerals, one would expect a sheet of these stamps to be composed of one third large numerals and two thirds small

numerals, though this is not quite the case. With the assistance of a scan of a full sheet of these stamps from Chris Brainard and an almost complete sheet in blocks from a bunch of Hungarian odds and ends I purchased at an Ottawa Philatelic Society auction, I constructed the plate map for this denomination illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4

Serbian Occupation of Temesvar: 10f on 2f Harvester Plate Map

	.20	.40	.60	.80	1.00	1.20	1.40	1.60	1.80	2.00	
.20				4							2.00
.40											1.80
.60	21		23	24			27				1.60
.80											1.40
1.00		M			45	46					1.20
1.20			53	54			57				1.00
1.40	M							68			.80
1.60	M					76					.60
1.80											.40
2.00				94							.20
	2.00	1.80	1.60	1.40	1.20	1.00	.80	.60	.40	.20	

	Small numerals	=	56
	Large numerals	=	41
M	Small 1, large 0	=	3

Numbers indicate an obvious constant plate flaw.

This indicates that there are 56 positions on the plate with small numerals, 41 positions with large numerals, as well as three positions with a small "1" and a large zero. This last combination of numerals is illustrated in Figure 5. In the process of reassembling the blocks into an almost complete sheet, Chris and I noticed a number of fairly obvious constant plate flaws in the surcharge. These are indicated by the position numbers in the sheet on the plate map in Figure 4 and are illustrated in Figure 6 through Figure 8 on the next page.

Figure 5: *mixed numerals (position 42).*

These constant plate flaws are:

position 4 - the top of the “f” is mutilated;
position 21 - there is a gap in the middle of the “i”;
position 23 - the bottom of the zero is dented;
position 24 - there are no serifs on the “1”;
position 45 - the crossbar on the right side of the “f” is missing;
position 46 - the left foot of the “1” is missing;
position 53 - the “1” looks like a capital “I”;
position 54 - there is a gap in the right side of the bottom of the zero;
position 57 - the top of the crossbar of the “e” is dented;
position 68 - the underside of the bottom loop of the “e” is dented and the top loop is partially filled-in;
position 76 - there is a gap in the right side of the bottom loop of the “e”; and
position 94 - there is a large gap in the bottom of the zero.

Figure 6: *plate flaws for positions 4, 21, 23 and 24.*

Figure 7: *plate flaws for positions 45 and 46, 53 and 54.*

Figure 8: *plate flaws for positions 57, 68, 76 and 94*

The surcharges for this issue were printed by typography, which means that the surcharge appears to be raised through the back of the stamp and the individual numerals and letters exhibit a “squeeze” of ink towards the edges creating a slightly darker outline to each numeral and letter. The numerals and letters are generally crisp and well defined. In my experience, the genuine stamps of this issue do outnumber the forgeries; counterfeits definitely exist, but they have a tendency to be relatively crude imitations. In Figure 9, at the top of the next page, are two genuine copies of the 10 fillér (on the left) and 3 counterfeit copies from my collection of fakes (on the right).

Figure 9: *10 fillér genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

The first of the three forgeries is not a bad piece of work, but the font of the "1" is not consistent with either the large or the small numerals on the genuine and the accent is all wrong; the accent on the "e" in fillér in the genuine stamps is always more or less wedge-shaped and right above the "e". The last two of the three fakes look like they were done by the same incompetent counterfeiter; they don't even look close to the genuine item.

Temesvár II – July 1919 (Serbian Occupation)

The second issue of stamps by the Serbian occupation forces was also composed of a series of surcharges on existing Hungarian stamps from the 1916-18 period: a 30 fillér on the 2f Harvester, a 50 fillér on the 20f Károly and a 1 Korona 50 fillér on the 15f Harvester, as well as three postage due stamps surcharged on the 2f red numeral postage due stamp from 1915 - a 40 fillér, a 60 fillér and a 100 fillér. These are illustrated in Figure 10 below.

Figure 10: *the second Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation.*

All these stamps were issued on July 1, 1919 to correspond to the new postal tariffs which were also announced on the same day by the Temesvár Postal Directorate for the area under its control. These new tariffs raised the rates for printed matter to 10 fillér, postcards to 30 fillér, letters to 50 fillér, registration to 1 Korona and the Express fee to 2 Korona.

Four hundred thousand of the 30f on 2f Harvester were printed, 600,000 of the 50f on 20f Károly and 200,000 of the 1K50f on 15f Harvesters; two thirds of this last denomination was printed with a black surcharge and one third with a red surcharge. Fifty thousand of each denomination of the postage due stamps were printed. Most of cards and covers franked with these stamps are philatelic, use on regular mail was rare. The 150f on 15f Harvester from this issue was further overprinted "Bánát Bácska 1919" for the issue of stamps during the interregnum between the Serbian occupation and the Romanian occupation of the area.

All of the surcharges were printed by lithography, meaning that the surcharge is not raised on the back of the stamp and there is no "squeeze" of ink to the edges of the lettering.

The forgeries of the regular postage stamps are usually rather crude and therefore relatively easy to distinguish from the genuine. Figure 11 illustrates a genuine 30f on 2f Harvester on the left and a counterfeit stamp on the right.

Figure 11: *30f on 2f Harvester genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

In the genuine stamp at left, the "shadows" cast by the main parts of the numerals and letters of the "30 fill." surcharge are formed by double lines. Even though the stamp at left is over-inked, the fact that these "shadows" are composed of two lines is relatively clear. In the counterfeit at right, these shadow lines are almost always single lines. There are a few other clues (other than the Budapest cancel under the surcharge): the shadow line inside the zero is connected to the zero at the top, the shadow line to the right of the top of the "3" does not cross through into the bottom loop of the "3" and the period after "fill" and the underline are connected to the last "l" in "fill".

The forgeries of the postage due stamps are a little less obvious. Figure 12 illustrates a genuine 60 fillér on 2 fillér postage due on the left and a counterfeit version of the right.

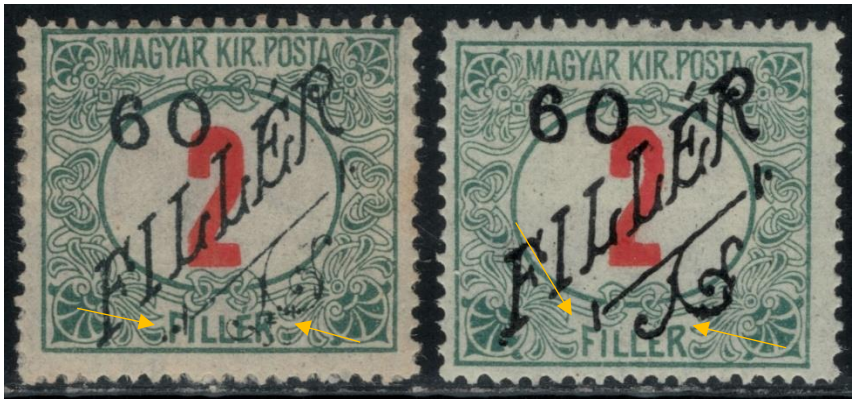

Figure 12: *60 fillér on 2 fillér postage due genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

In the genuine postage due stamps, the scroll work beneath the line under "fillér" is fairly delicately done with individual "leaves", "dots" and "stems" along the fine curved lines. There is also a short vertical line with three strokes through it underneath the split of the lines, with two small curved lines beneath that. In the counterfeit at right, the scroll work and the detail along it all runs together. It is also missing the detail under the split in the lines and the two dots to the left of the underline.

Temesvár III – August 1919 (Romanian Occupation)

The issue of stamps by the Romanian occupation forces was composed of a series of surcharges on existing Hungarian stamps from the 1916-19 period: a 30 fillér on the 2f Harvester, a 1 Korona on the 4f Harvester overprinted "KÖZTÁSASÁG", a 150 fillér on the 3f Harvester, a 150 fillér on the 5f Harvester and a 3 Korona on the 2f Express stamp of 1916. There were also three denominations of postage due stamps issued: a 40 fillér on the 15f+2f War Charity stamp of 1916, a 60 fillér on the 2f red numeral postage due stamp from 1915 and a 60 fillér on the 10f red numeral postage due stamp from 1915. These are illustrated in Figures 13 and 14.

Figure 13: *the regular postage stamps of the Temesvár issue under Romanian occupation.*

Figure 14: *the postage due stamps of the Temesvár issue under Romanian occupation.*

There seems to be some confusion among the various sources to which I have access regarding the exact issue date of these stamps. Brainard and Michel list the issue date as August 17, 1919; Stanley Gibbons and MBK cite August 20, 1919 as the issue date. Either way the issue of these stamps coincides with the announcement of a new set of postal tariffs for the area occupied by Romanian forces. These new rates were set in Romanian currency with the exchange rate stipulated as 1 bani = 2 fillér. The cost of an inland postcard was reduced to 20 fillér (10 bani), an inland letter to 30 fillér (15 bani), a foreign letter to 50 fillér (25 bani) and the registration fee to 50 fillér (25 bani). The postal rates decreed by the Temesvár Postal Directorate on July 1, 1919, remained in effect for Bács-Bodrog, the western part of Torontál and the southern part of Temes counties, which remained occupied by Serbian forces.

One hundred and twenty thousand of the 30f on the 2f Harvester were printed (100,000 with the surcharge in blue, 20,000 in red), 180,000 of the 150f on 3f Harvester, 100,000 of the 150f on the 5f Harvester, 130,000 of the 1K on the 4f Harvester overprinted "KÖZTÁSASÁG", and 99,000 of

the 3K on the 2f Express (79,000 with the surcharge in black and 20,00 in blue). With respect to the postage due stamps of the issue, one hundred thousand of the 40f on the War Charity issue of 1916 were printed (80,000 with the surcharge in black and 20,000 in red), plus 20,000 of the 60f on the 2f red numeral postage (¾ with the surcharge in black and ¼ in red) and 40,000 of the 60f on the 10f red numeral postage due (again ¾ with the surcharge in black, ¼ in red). Most of cards and covers franked with these stamps are philatelic, use on regular mail was rare.

All of these surcharges were also printed by lithography, meaning that the surcharge is not raised on the back of the stamp and there is no "squeeze" of ink to the edges of the lettering.

Figure 15: *150f on 5f Harvester genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

For the 30f on 2f Harvester, the 150f on 3f Harvester and the 150f on the 5f Harvester, distinguishing the genuine item from the counterfeit is relatively straightforward. On the counterfeit stamp on the right of Figure 15, the cross-hatching inside the numerals is uneven and splotchy and the lines in the block of bars are blurry or non-existent. In the genuine stamps, the cross-hatching inside the numerals is very even and uniform and the lines in the block of bars (or the boxes in the case of the 30f denominations) obliterating the old values are distinct and clear.

The counterfeits that I have of the 1K on the 4f overprinted "KÖZTÁSASÁG" are much less obvious. Figure 16 illustrates the genuine stamp on the left and a counterfeit one on the right.

Figure 16: *the 1K on the 4f overprinted "KÖZTÁSASÁG" genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

On the genuine surcharges, the lines of the "star-burst" on the lower right are relatively thin and straight, the serif on the top of the "1" is a straight line slanting downwards on a diagonal from the top of the numeral, the ends of the legs and the right arm of the "K" are flat. In the counterfeit stamp at right, the serifs on the "1" and the "K" are wrong, the shape of the "K" is significantly off and the lines of the "star-burst" lower right are thick and get thicker as they go out from the dot. What is not obvious from the scan in Figure 16 is the colour. The colour of the genuine surcharge is a scarlet red; the colour in the counterfeit is more of a brick-red. In the fakes that I have seen, the colour of red is always off.

Figure 17: *the 3K on the 2f Express from 1916 genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

The first thing I notice in looking at the two stamps in Figure 17 is the colour of the surcharge. The ink in the genuine 'black' surcharge has a bluish tint to it; the counterfeit at right is a truer black. There are also a number of differences in the design of the "3". In the genuine surcharge, the interiors of the top, the thick part of the bottom loop and the ball of the numeral are made up of patches of cross-hatching that are outlined and separate from the outline of the numeral itself. These are visible even in over-inked copies. The top and bottom of the "3" are connected by a line which protrudes a little past the join with the bottom loop. The "3" of the counterfeit stamp at right have none of these characteristics. In addition, the join of the "ball" of the "3" to the bottom of the loop is rounded in the genuine, not pointed as in the counterfeit.

Figure18: *the 40 fillér postage due on the 15f+2f War Charity stamp of 1916 genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

The features that distinguish genuine from fake for the 40 fillér Porto on the 15f+2f War Charity stamps of 1916 in Figure 18 are not immediately that obvious either. The dots around the circles with the "40" in it are small, numerous and evenly spaced. The "40" and the detail around it are clear and well printed. The ends of the lines that obliterate the old denomination are distinct, but ragged on the right side in that they do not line up evenly in a vertical sense. The counterfeits on the right look as though they were both done by the same forger, as they both have the same problems; the dots around the circle are large and unevenly spaced, and the lines in the lower part of the stamp run together at the ends and the right sides are even vertically.

Figure 19: *the 60f on the 10f red numeral postage due genuine (left) vs counterfeit (right).*

The genuine 60f surcharges on the 2f and 10f red numeral postage due stamps from 1915 are printed in a dark, dull red which is different than the ink used in the printing of the other stamps of this issue. While the lines which obliterate the old denomination have small gaps in them, they are relatively continuous as illustrated in Figure 19. In the counterfeit at right, the lines have large gaps in them and the "60"s are too thick and too big. The ink is also wrong; it has too much orange in it.

For those interested in the actual use of these stamps, there is an absolutely wonderful article in issue 18-1 of *Philatelica* by Dr. Nagy Ferenc entitled "The 1918-1920 Postal History of the South Region as Reflected in the First Temesvar Local Issue Stamps", which looks at the postal history of this area during the occupations through cards and covers using the stamps of the first Temesvár issue under Serbian occupation. Ably translated by Csaba, it is available in English on the MAFITT website www.mafitt.hu and well worth a read.

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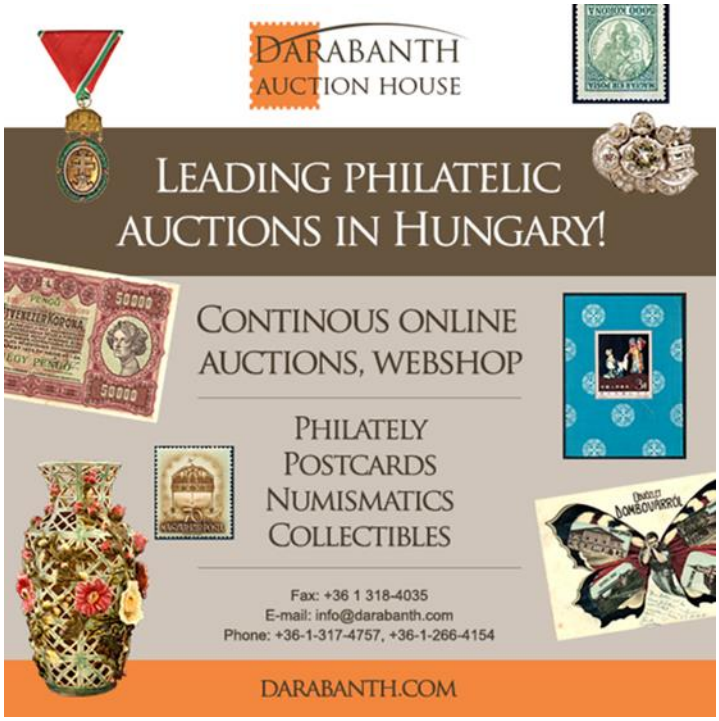

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THE TEMESVÁR OCCUPATION ISSUES

A registered cover using the 10f from the first Temesvár issue and the 30f from the second issue correctly franked (5f over) for Pancsova in the Serbian occupation zone cancelled December 22, 1919 *(from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi)*.

The cover of a registered letter using the 50f from the second Temesvár issue under-franked by 10f from Ruszkabánya in the Romanian occupation zone after August 20, 1919 *(from the collection of Csaba L. Kohalmi)*.